



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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FEMA-1502-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #4

Tuesday, January 6, 2004

1. Situation

A severe storm system moved into the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 18 and 19, 2003 dumping up to 4.28 inches of rain in 12 hours resulting in flash floods through the southwestern part of Virginia. Two young children in Buchanan County died when their home was washed away by a flash flood. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to single-family residences, manufactured homes and private access bridges. Several apartment buildings with major damage were also identified, as well as damage to sewer pipes and private wells.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Smyth and Tazewell, and the cities of Galax and Radford on November 20. After evaluations by Preliminary Damage Assessment teams, Governor Warner requested a federal disaster declaration on November 26. On December 9, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1502-DR-VA) was granted to Virginia for Individual Assistance in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth and Tazewell, and the city of Galax. Effective December 21, the US Homeland Security advisory level and the Virginia threat advisory level were raised from yellow (elevated) to orange (high).

2. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ Ensure safety and security of field staff.
- ☐ Ensure priority handling of individual disaster victims.
- ☐ Develop mitigation success stories.
- ☐ Implement an External Affairs strategy that will proactively manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate staffing of public meetings and support all recovery program elements.

3. Recovery Activities

A. Human Services

i. Teleregistrations

- ☐ New teleregistrations since last reporting period amount to **72** for a total of **525** registrations at COB **January 5**. See Attachment 1 for teleregistrations by jurisdictions.
- ☐ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Lines are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

ii. **Small Business Administration** (as of COB 1/5/04)

	Issued	Received	#Approved	\$ Approved	Declined	Withdrawn	Pending
Home	175	14	2	20,600	2	1	9
Business	48	3	0	\$0	0	1	2
EIDL	0	3	0	\$0	0	1	2
TOTAL	223	20	2	\$20,600	2	3	13

iii. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

(a) **Housing**

- ☐ Temporary housing assistance disbursed to date – **\$592,262.73**.
- ☐ More than 76 homes destroyed, 149 homes with major damage, 255 with minor damage and 128 homes affected. Losses estimated are at \$10,283,389. More than 47 businesses were affected by the incident, including three destroyed. Estimated losses amount to \$2,681,000.

(b) **Other Needs Assistance**

Amount Referrals Approved:	\$72,520.07
Amount Referrals Disbursed:	\$72,520.07
Total Referrals Received:	203
Total Referrals Approved:	23
Total Referrals Ineligible:	74
Total Referrals Withdrawn:	8
Total Referrals Pending	98

iv. **Disaster Recovery Centers**

(a) **Bluefield DRC**

- ☐ The Bluefield DRC, at Kroger Plaza, Bldg. 713, S. College Ave., **will close Friday, January 9.**
- ☐ Between December 30 through January 5, **20** walk-ins visited the DRC for a total of **85** to date.

v. **Disaster Unemployment Insurance**

- ☐ Individuals in the declared jurisdictions can submit Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications at the nearest Virginia Employment Commission office through January 15.

vi. **Mental Health**

- ☐ ***The Individual Assistance Officer will attend the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administrators conference on January 21-23 in Washington, D.C.***

B. Mitigation

- ☐ Strategy complete.
- ☐ Met with City of Galax officials regarding the National Flood Insurance Program and its benefits.
- ☐ Attended Giles County Town Meeting.
- ☐ Performed Community Assistance Visit with Giles County.

C. Legislative Liaison

- ❑ *Responded to an inquiry from Delegate Charles Carrico's office regarding a Smyth County constituent who experience damage to their primary vehicle and has is an apparent critical need for immediate assistance. This family has a 2½ year-old daughter that recently had surgery and accessible transportation borders on a life-threatening necessity.*
- ❑ Responded to an inquiry from Carroll County representative involving constituent(s) in a non-designated locality who suffered real property damage in the floods on November 19. *The county administrator is currently assessing the extent of damage in the county.* This matter is still pending.

D. Community Relations

- ❑ CR activity completed on December 29.

E. Public Affairs

- ❑ Issued Press Releases on:
 - ❑ *"Disaster Victims May be Eligible for Tax Relief"*
 - ❑ *"Toll-Free Teleregistration and Help Line Days Change"*
 - ❑ *"Beware of Fraud When Making Flood-Damage Repairs"*
 - ❑ *"Disaster Recovery Center in Bluefield to Close" on January 9.*

F. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- ❑ *Contacting officials in Bland County to schedule a meeting to establish a Local Recovery Task Force.*

G. State Coordinating Officer

- ❑ A Deputy State Coordinating Officer will appear on Roanoke's WBRA TV on January 7 at 5:30 p.m.
- ❑ *Deputy State Coordinating Officers and senior staff will participate in the Disaster Response and Recovery Operations course via videoconference on January 20-21.*

H. Miscellaneous Information

- ❑ Situation reports are being prepared and distributed weekly on Tuesdays.
- ❑ *The (Bluefield) Disaster Coordination Center closed on December 31.*
- ❑ The (Richmond) Disaster Field Office's operational hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator

/s/ Harry E. Colestock III, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

Attachment 1 – Teleregistrations
As of COB *January 5*

Designated Jurisdictions	Daily On 1/5	Cumulative
Bland	<i>0</i>	<i>43</i>
Buchanan	3	<i>38</i>
Galax (city)	<i>2</i>	<i>24</i>
Giles	1	<i>51</i>
Smyth	<i>7</i>	<i>70</i>
Tazewell	<i>14</i>	<i>287</i>
Total	<i>27</i>	<i>513</i>

Undesignated Jurisdictions	Daily On 1/5	Cumulative
Carroll	0	1
Craig	0	1
Hanover	0	1
Henry	0	1
Lexington (City)	0	1
Newport News (City)	0	1
Prince Edward	0	1
Radford	0	1
Russell	0	<i>1</i>
San Juan (Municipio)	0	1
Spotsylvania	0	1
Total	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>